



The monthly magazine of Toc H

7p October 1972

Gwen

# POINT THREE





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October 1972

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Toc H members accept a four-fold commitment:

- 1 To build friendships across the barriers that divide man from man
- 2 To give personal service
- 3 To find their own convictions while always being willing to listen to the views of others
- 4 To work for the building of that better world which has been called the Kingdom of God.

This magazine, which acts as a forum for ideas about Toc H and about the world in which we live, takes its title from the third of these Four Points—to think fairly.

## On the cover:

It's ball games on the terrace for some of the 14 handicapped people and the Toc H members and volunteers who spent a week's holiday at Dor Knap this summer. Among the outings enjoyed were a visit to the Slimbridge Wildfowl Trust, a theatre trip and shopping expeditions. Leaders of the party were Mary Ransom, a Toc H member from Leighton Buzzard, and Carolyn Lindon, aged 20, a London policewoman.  
Photo: Evesham Journal.

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Point Three is available from Toc H Publications Department, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Buckinghamshire (Tel: 0296 62 3256). Single copies 7p; 10 or more copies sent to the same address 6p each.

Letters and articles are welcomed and should be addressed to the Toc H Editorial Office, 42 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2AL (Tel: 01-709 0472). Opinions expressed are those of the individual contributors and not necessarily those of the Toc H Movement.

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# VIEWPOINT

## The downward plunge

The membership figures in the Annual Report published last month show a dramatic downward plunge. Despite the fact that 709 new members were recruited during the year the total number of members dropped by 1,147. 75 branches closed during the year, while a mere 13 new branches were recognised.

I don't want to indulge in scaremongering, but to fail to recognise the gravity of the situation would be irresponsible. Branches (and, for that matter, leaders of projects and Marks) must surely regard the recruitment of members, and the formation of new units, however conventional or unconventional, as a high priority.

Before we can recruit successfully we need to be quite clear about what we stand for and where we are going. It is for this purpose that the Planning Committee has produced its report on the future development of the Movement, a report which has been hammered out after a year of thought and discussion. This is now in the hands of Central Councillors and it will be discussed at next month's Council meeting. Inevitably the report is a lengthy document but one hopes that Councillors will consider it carefully and will share its thinking with the branches in their constituencies.

The report is a coherent whole. Its recommendations, on membership, on branches, on projects, on property, on finance and on staffing, are interlocking and need to be considered as a whole. Nonetheless I believe there are a number of points which are relevant to a consideration of the gloomy membership figures:

'We believe, despite all debate, all changes of expression, the changes in society which have occurred since the birth of the Movement, that our aims are still embodied in the Four Points. We believe that these are still, and always will be, relevant and necessary in the world in which we operate. But we believe the Movement fails to be true where we place one Point above the

others. We believe that the Movement must have all four components *together*, or it has no strength.'

'Toc H is a continuous learning process. At the point of membership, or after five, 10 or 25 years' service, we are all still learners. It is the striving towards fellowship, service, fairmindedness and ultimately the Kingdom of God which Toc H seeks to stimulate.'

'The challenges of such things as Rye Hill, Newcastle, work with gypsies, etc, are essential to a dynamic Movement, but because of the small numbers of Toc H people who participate in the experience, they are not understood by the majority of the membership. We therefore feel that the impact will be greatest where there are the means to interpret these challenges to existing membership so that they may learn from them. In new and existing Toc H work we should ensure as far as possible both that real challenges are presented and that these challenges are constantly re-interpreted to membership in terms of the Four Points.'

'We have considered again what should be the kind of commitment we seek when we ask new members to join us. We have concluded that we should raise our flag high and clearly state our objectives in terms of the Four Points. We also believe that the nature of Toc H as a learning process should be equally clearly stated. If we do this we believe that the only commitment which is necessary is that the new member agrees to "journey with us".'

'Appropriate means of follow-up should be organised at the time of launching a project.'

'We believe that growth in the expression of Toc H will only take place in branches where there is the constant challenge of new ideas and new people adding to the mixture and where these challenges are interpreted by skilled staff and lay leadership. We believe that with the right kind of stimulus the majority of branches could once again become dynamic units of Toc H.'

I repeat that the report needs to be considered as a whole, and that these quotations can do little more than convey its flavour. The latest membership figures underline the need for urgency in dealing with the report. If the recommendations are acted on wholeheartedly and speedily the statistics printed in future Annual Reports will not cause the same chill as this year's figures.

K P-B



## The changing pattern of service in Berlin

David Woodall describes the variety of services offered by the Toc H club in Berlin. Despite the changes over the past 27 years 'friendly relationships with the serviceman and his family remain the hallmark of the work,' says David.

On August 4 1945, 59 Schönwalder Allee was requisitioned for Toc H as quarters for the staff who were preparing to open a services club for the British Forces in Spandau. Some five weeks later, on September 11, business commenced at 61 Schönwalder Allee under the managership of Mrs Miller. Since that date the club has been closed only on Good Friday, Christmas Day and Boxing Day each year. In 1945 tea was 2d per cup (now 3p), coffee was 4d (now 4p), and a filled roll cost 3d (now 4p). There were not many seats in the club in those days and it was not unusual to see numbers of soldiers standing outside with their cups, saucers and plates. In those early post-war days the club provided mainly a canteen service, although for about an hour each morning Mrs Miller would sell such things as soap, toothpaste, razor blades, boot polish, cigarettes, matches, chocolate and sweets.

In 1946 the British Military Hospital was opened in Spandau's Radelandstrasse and very soon afterwards Toc H was asked to provide canteen facilities for the staff, patients and visitors. This service continued until the new British Military Hospital opened in Dickensweg, Charlottenburg, where a specially designed canteen was provided for Toc H. Every day Toc H operates a trolley service around the hospital wards, selling newspapers, magazines, books, toilet articles, confectionery and postage stamps. In addition to this the canteen is open from 8.30 am to 4.00 pm near the reception hall.

At present Toc H employs 17 staff; three UK-based civilians, Angus Laing, Warden, David Woodall and John Knight, Assistant Wardens; one dependant of a British soldier, Aida Fearn, kitchen help; four British civilians living locally in Berlin, Charlie Boley and Danny McGowan, drivers, Gerda Field, counter assistant, and Gwen Seepe, kitchen help; and nine German civilians, Friedl Gross, hospital canteen manageress, Walli Boley, Anni Goden, Lotti Köster, Cilli Peschel, Annemarie Pichote,

counter assistants, Georg Lehmann, gardener-handyman, Ursula Schulze, cleaner and Friedl Howe, kitchen-help.

1972 is a far cry from 1945 and many changes have taken place in the Toc H services' club since those far-off days. The amount of work involved in the canteen service is probably about the same now as then, but today newspapers, magazines and books account for 18 per cent of the total income; toiletries, confectionery, gifts and souvenirs for 52 per cent and canteen income is now only 30 per cent, whereas 27 years ago it was probably as high as 90 per cent of total income. Today Toc H supplies the British Forces not only with a very full range of confectionery and toilet articles, but also many toys, souvenirs, radios, television sets, record players, tape recorders, leather goods, perfumes and jewellery.

The house in Schönwalder Allee which has, for the past 27 years, been the base for Toc H work in Berlin.

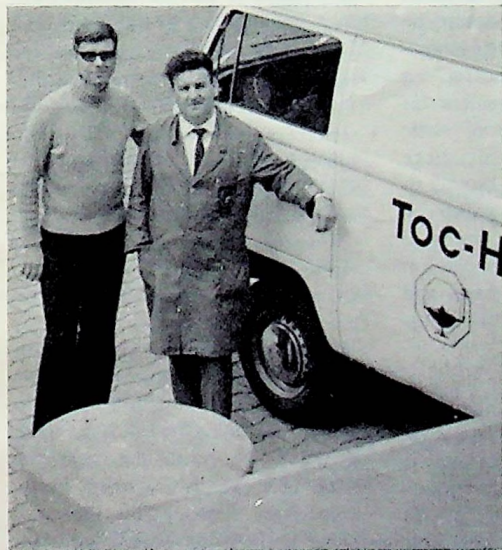




The Berlin club has four Volkswagen vehicles, three Kombis and a Variant estate car. The Kombis (converted mini-buses) are used for mobile canteen services; one visits Alexander Barracks and the Ordnance Services Supply Depot daily and the Royal Military Police at their Tiergarten Guardroom (near the Brandenburg Gate) and at Checkpoint Charlie twice a day. Another serves the units in and around the Olympic Stadium. When required, Toc H also provides a canteen service at Spandau Allied Prison for the British and United States guards, at the Control Commission Building in Kleistpark, at the French ranges in Bernauer Strasse, in the Spandau Forest Training Areas, at the Police Training Village in Pionierstrasse and at any sporting events that take place in the Olympic Stadium. With assistance from Wesley House, Toc H also caters for such ceremonial occasions as the Queen's Birthday Parade, the Allied Forces Day Parade and the British Berlin Military Tattoo. It is a proud boast of Toc H, Berlin, that it has never refused or failed to provide a mobile canteen when required.

The club also operates a small canteen, open for an hour each morning and afternoon, near the BSSO offices on the fringe of the Olympic Stadium and a small kiosk is now open daily at the Families' Swimming Pool for the sale of ice cream, drinks and confectionery.

Angus Laing (l), warden of the Berlin club, and Charlie Boley, with one of the fleet of vehicles which provide the club's mobile canteen service.



The club in Spandau has accommodation for up to ten people, in addition to the UK-based staff, in two twin-bedded and two three-bedded rooms. During holiday times many servicemen and their relatives are accommodated at very reasonable prices.

These are the facts behind the 27 years of service by Toc H to the British garrison. Although the work of the club has expanded tremendously it has never become impersonal and the staff believe that friendly relationships with the serviceman and his family remain the hallmark of their Toc H work.

## Obituary

We regret to announce the death, in July, of Lady Tredgold, President of the Women's Association in Rhodesia until amalgamation. Her husband, Sir Robert, to whom we offer our profound sympathy, is President of the combined Movement. A message from Toc H Rhodesia reads: 'Lady Tredgold was a wonderful person to us and to many others to whom she gave of herself'.

We also announce the death of the following members:

**In May:** Helen Jarvis (Darlington Central), Georgina M Pace (Peterborough), Charles Taylor (Thornton Cleveleys), Bertrand Thomas (Leigh-on-Sea).

**In June:** Richard D Bonnett (Bracknell), Edith Dickinson (Stockport), Lt Col William J Drake (East London Area), William Hogg (Caister-on-Sea), Ena D Hopkins (Folkestone), William Lock-Dingley (East London Area), Mary Oswell (Peterborough), Edward E Stubbs (Wortley de Leeds).

**In July:** Alfred R Bolsin (Sussex Area), Ivy K Bullen (Ipswich), Eleanor Hadley (Hunmanby), Charles Heard (Chelmsford), T Knox-Shaw (East Anglia Area), Leslie Peters (Carshalton), Reginald A Preece (Eastleigh), Annie S Quarrie (Swanage), Claud F Thurston (Colchester), Jack Walbrin (Whipton), Ethel M Wills (Dawlish with Teignmouth), Hilda Willis (Central), Harry H Willis (Ashby-de-la-Zouch), Ellen Young (Totnes).

**In August:** Arthur G Davies (Carmarthen), Andrew J Gardiner (Stirling), William J Guthrie (Southern Area), Eric Johnstone (Anstey), Sam Lunn (Sussex Area).

We give thanks for their lives.



## Letters

### That £2 Million

I was a member of the Central Executive and of the Central Finance committee when the proposal to acquire 15 Trinity Square was considered. The scheme found favour with me from the start and I did my part in helping to bring it to fruition. None of us in our wildest dreams could have foreseen the day when the property would be realisable with some 2000 per cent 'capital gain'. But that day has come and we are the possessors of £2 million.

Instead of being delighted with our good fortune I find myself with mixed feelings, including some apprehension and anxiety about the effect of this great windfall on the spirit and character of the Movement.

In the first place it is, I think, well to bear in mind that this money has not come to us by a legacy or a gift, willingly, if not lovingly, given us by someone who has a bond of affection with Toc H. It has come by a perversion in our economic pattern whereby land values have soared almost out of control and some folk are made rich overnight, having contributed nothing to the common weal, but rather, albeit unwittingly, to the common woe of inflation. Nevertheless, we have the money, we came by it quite legally, and are not responsible (or only very remotely!) for the economic perversion which landed this fortune in our lap. But let us not be too pleased with ourselves but rather all the more determined not to let this affluence spoil us.

The Central Executive has already decided to invest the £2 million and hold it as capital using the income therefrom to further the aims of Toc H. At the same time we are urged, very rightly of

course, not to diminish our own contributions to the Family Purse. But what a temptation to ease up a bit on that when there is the income from £2 million coming in! I wonder whether the decision to hold on to all of the £2 million, other than on a temporary basis, is in the best interests of the Movement? If we do not continue to finance our Movement mainly from our own pockets and from our own efforts we shall become more detached, less involved, and lose some of our family spirit.

I come now to the main purpose of this letter. I advocate the disposal of a large portion of the £2 million, say £1½ million or £1 million, not by way of gift to existing charitable organisations, but for the flotation of major projects, preferably self-supporting, at home or abroad, or both. I am a little out of touch with things now but a group of the right people within and without Toc H would soon find worthy projects (one type comes to my mind in the form of a Botha's Hill) which would give lasting benefit to large numbers of people in dire need of one kind or another.

Having fathered and financed what I hope would turn out to be very worthwhile and lasting projects (and, incidentally, set an example to other millionaires on what to do with some of their wealth!) we should still have £1 million or £500,000 capital to hold and interest on that would be enough to get our staff strength, our staff salaries and pensions on an adequate and proper basis and do several other needful things besides.

Giving away a large portion of unexpected wealth in this way might be considered by some as irresponsible. But by others it would be hailed as a courageous gesture and would show that we are anxious to get something

substantial and worthwhile done now rather than store up financial protection for our own future. In Toc H the emphasis has always been on personal relationships and personal service, as distinct from social service, and wealth of the order of £2 million is hardly a first essential for that.

Only a few days before his death Stan Berwick was discussing the £2 million with me and he said 'it could alter the character of the Movement'. Wealth can damage the soul of a Movement as well as the soul of a man. I would not say that £2 million is great wealth these days but it might prove to be enough to do us some harm.

Dudley Herring  
*Orpington, Kent*

Hugh Stevenson's and W L Gates' letters in the July issue are quite irresponsible in regard to the stewardship of money. Surely all that has happened is that our chief asset has been translated from one form to another in order that our Movement may be allowed to expand. The amount in pounds and pence is in my opinion quite irrelevant. This is good business and how often have we slated our members for being unbusinesslike? I do not recall that either of the writers advocated the use of the lower part of 15 Trinity Square to shelter the homeless when our asset was in the form of property.

Anyone can take (often out of context) quotations from the bible to suit any situation; I prefer the one about the talents!

Why should we give money away? Toc H is as capable as any other society of putting its assets to best advantage. I would commend to these two gentlemen the article 'Toc H work in Hackney' in the July *Point Three*. This illustrates some of the things Toc H wants to



do and with the money we now have I'm sure we shall see more places like Prideaux House.

I am certain that the vast majority of members will agree that the £2 million should be invested and the income used for expansion.

Peter Flay *Gillingham, Kent*

The two letters in July issue, from Hugh Stevenson and W L Gates, should not be allowed to go unchallenged.

To an organisation with the spending potential of Toc H £2 million is not too large a sum to invest. The income can be spent on these very worthwhile charities that W L Gates cites, but the original gifts were to Toc H, not to these charities, and trustees must pay attention to the intentions of the donors.

Frank Edwards  
*Shoreham-by-Sea, Sussex*

I am very fond of Toc H and attend the weekly meeting whenever I can. Dear old Toc H. Now we have these good people, Hugh Stevenson and W L Gates, wanting to give away all our newly found money, and all our responsibility. It makes me boil, and here I am *boiling over*. What a lot of rubbish. Once a 'giving away' process is started it becomes increasingly difficult to stop it.

I would rather see help given to such types as old age pensioners, the homeless, the needy; and not necessarily through other organisations. No, *let's do our own work*, through our own branches and District Teams. Let individual members get down to some practical Toc H work. I have a feeling that too many, far too many members are sitting back and doing nothing. This is no encouragement for prospective members of any age.

I feel that to give the money

away before we have done anything with it would be apathy on our part, a sure sign of decrepitude, old age or the 'can't be bothered and let someone else do all the work' attitude.

C A Cardale *Totnes, S Devon*

### Dor Knap cancellations

I have every sympathy with every-one concerned with this 'cancellation lark' but John Callf asks 'what can be done about it?' (Letters, August). Well, my answer is simple; when a booking is made sufficient money should be paid to make the booking viable and with your present low prices I would suggest not less than 75 per cent and henceforth it should be the responsibility of the booking agent to find replacements for any that fall by the way, the only exception being sickness, real sickness.

This sort of behaviour would not be tolerated in any ordinary family and I feel that seeing that so much of what is available at Dor Knap is the result of the blood, sweat and a few tears of members of our great Family of Toc H, it should be made quite clear that the monetary contribution asked is only a part of the obligation that members accept when they make a booking.

To me it's a privilege to be at Dor Knap and I would sooner see the place 'go public' as John calls

### Volunteers wanted

Calling men skilled in carpentry and plastering who would be able to join working parties, by arrangement, at Dor Knap. We hope to develop the stables behind the bothy to provide additional toilets and bathroom. We have money and materials—all we need now is the willing labour.

Names and addresses, please, to: Phil Jacques, 26 St Mary's Road, Bingham, Notts.

it, than have it abused by our own black sheep.

Stan Beadle *Battle, Sussex*

### A token gesture

I was interested to read the letter from Peter Bazeley in your July number regarding World Poverty and, as a fellow-idealist have a deeply sympathetic regard for his views. Why indeed should not the resources of the developed countries be harnessed for the relief of those in areas where there is great need? I wish with all my heart that this could be done here and elsewhere in the world where plenty abounds. Let me add hastily that there is only one element missing towards the fulfilment of such a goal, and that is the will of the majority of ordinary folk.

We have however to face the fact that society in many parts of the world, not least in the Western portion, is a profit-motivated one. This in turn is bolstered by financial interests similarly based. And at this point let us be honest with ourselves and admit that the vast majority of us have a vested interest of one kind or another in maintaining the *status quo*—indeed the financial set-up is so strongly rooted and with such far-reaching ramifications that it is going to take a great deal of effort to alter or even modify it—even given the will to do so!

In a lifetime of well over 60 years I have seen a great transformation. The action of impersonal economic forces has been tempered by the accumulative force of public opinion, and the climate of life consequently bettered. The hope for the future, as I see it, is for those who believe in a different state of affairs than now exists to work towards this goal by avoiding as far as is in our power giving support to the interests which hold sway today. This is not easy—it will certainly call for discipline, and may involve some self-denial; but each of us can make some contribution however small.

E K Hobley, A.I.B. *Carlisle*



# Fifty Years On

A further selection of branches which are 50 years old this year.

## Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

The idea of reviving Toc H was first mooted in Cheltenham in 1919. The Rev Pat Leonard was then chaplain to Cheltenham College. He met with others who had known the Old House to decide what to do. One of the early members was Frank Urwin, who became, in 1920, the first jobmaster in Toc H.

'Jobmasters' of Cheltenham Spa were in those days proprietors of bath chairs for the sick who came to take the waters. One old lady promptly wrote to Frank Urwin requesting his services. Explanations followed, and a valuable convert to Toc H was made.

Two of those early members became Bishops of the Church of England and one a Moderator of the Presbyterian Church.

Tubby came to Cheltenham with Barclay Baron early in 1920 and met the three original members. He came again in November 1920 and met them all, around 40 in number. So great was his fervour that, in Pat Leonard's words, 'we were convinced that unless we started at once Cheltenham's name would be forever mud'. On December 15 1922 most of the members went to All Hallows for Tubby's Induction and then in the evening to the Birthday Festival at the Guildhall, where the Prince of Wales presented them with their Lamp. That we were the first provincial branch to receive a Lamp (coming after London) was a great surprise to Cheltenham for, wrote Pat Leonard, 'we had serious doubts at one time whether we had started Toc H early enough, so great was the enthusiasm in those early days'.

Between the wars, and during the second war, the branch continued to be a springboard for activities in Cheltenham. Leprosy relief, the blind association, boys' clubs and camps for deprived children all needed help and branch members seemed to be in everything that was going on.

In 1944 the big scheme was for a house in Cheltenham. An appeal was launched and a house with grounds was bought. Then came a requisition order and American soldiers occupied the premises. The produce from the garden went to the London Marks, which no doubt needed it. By 1949 it was regarded as impracticable to repair the house and it was sold.

In 1946 training sessions were started at St Anne's House, conducted by the Rev Hugh

Sawbridge ('Sawbones') and Fred Brooker. In 1952 a film unit was bought and is still doing a good job in and around Cheltenham. In 1955 Father Christmas made the headlines, entering the hospital on a stretcher with a broken ankle—carol singers please note! In the 60's we managed to send eight sewing machines to a leper colony in Bangalore (this took nearly two years and the full story is told in *Whole Men*).

Ossie Joseph and Don McKenzie visited us from South Africa. At the present time Geoff Paget, a former branch Secretary, is doing his bit for his church and for Toc H in Lesotho. He claims to be the poorest white man in Africa. In 1965, Jubilee year, a seat was presented to the Council in memory of Pat Leonard.

A women's branch has existed alongside the men since 1924. We work together, sharing opportunities, blessings and misfortunes. Among our present 21 members and probationers are two of the original members, Frank Bourton and Charlie Grey. One is a member of St Dunstan's and we have two other blind members. The rest are getting on a bit, but are young at heart and a very well mixed lot.

In January 1972, with the co-operation of the women's branch, we held our annual party for the blind, which has continued uninterrupted since 1922. 106 were invited to tea and a concert, shared by the car drivers, many of them non-members, who brought the guests and delivered them safely home.

Over £250 is collected annually for the blind through local pubs. We maintain children in a leper home in Uganda. We have made lots of friends in Cheltenham and thank God for it, and we remain determined that the fellowship of Toc H shall be the basis of service to others, as it was in the beginning. 'Jacko' Jackson

## Deeside, near Chester

Unlike the other branches mentioned in this series Deeside women's branch did not, of course, receive its Lamp from the Prince of Wales. It is, however, 50 years old on October 14 this year, and so deserves a mention. Sandy Giles, Director of Toc H, will be attending their birthday celebrations. Peth Davidson, of the Northern Regional staff, writes: 'The branch always had a close connection with the Gladstone family because, of course, Hawarden Castle is only a few minutes away. I initiated the late



Lady Gladstone as a member of Deeside many years ago (this gives away my age!) and she had close relations with the branch.'

## Cambridge

No records of the period 1922 to 1933 are now available but it appears that during that time town and university members worked together in one unit. In 1933 a number of Toc H enthusiasts at the university set up an 'everyman's club' at 17 Peas Hill. 'Seventeen' was a local club, with speakers on Toc H subjects and a club room for joint activities. Ronnie Wraith's name was linked with many 'jobs' during that period, especially for the unemployed. Apart from 'Seventeen' the town members hived off into a number of small groups though many joint meetings took place. In September 1939, under the shadow of war, they amalgamated into one unit once again.

Records, if any were kept, of the war period are missing. The writer remembers a constant change of members, some moving off into the forces, others moving in to the official offices which were evacuated to Cambridge. The main effort was the manning of the services' club. Howard Dunnott was leader and mainstay. Other stalwarts were 'Inky' Bean, Harry Dodd and Padre Gawn. Three of the leaders were photographed on the front steps of the club and the caption below the picture read: 'Been and Gone and Done it'! Many members of the forces used the club and at its peak a team of some 80 ladies did a grand job providing the meals.

Hopes that many returned servicemen would link up with Toc H after the war were dashed. A struggle both to hold meetings and also to find a place where meetings could be held went on for several years. By 1949 regular branch meetings were held with good talks—Cambridge is never short of speakers—and a varied series of jobs. Children's homes, old people's homes and Cheshire Homes were visited and support was given to the Leprosy Relief Association.

May 1956 saw the start of a major job, which has continued steadily. At first commentaries on local football matches were made on tape and played back at the hospital in the evening. From this developed a direct land line transmission, and record request programmes are now included also.

Owing to reduced membership endeavours are being made to link with the women's branch in the formation of a joint branch. Regular jobs include visits to a mental hospital and reading at a home for the blind. Our entertainments at an old people's home give an opportunity for friends of the branch to join us. Representation on several local committees is maintained.

Ron Truelove

## Northampton

Although the original Northampton branch closed five years ago Northampton women's branch and Abington branch (itself founded back in 1928) keep Toc H very much alive in the town.

One of the earliest jobs undertaken by members in Northampton was the visiting of boys who had lost their fathers during the war. Toc H also started a Scout troop and ran an annual camp in Jersey. It established a rest room for unemployed men and started the library at Mansfield Hospital.

Today the main job of Abington branch is the running of film shows at old people's and children's homes over an area which extends as far as Wellingborough and Kettering. It also provides transport for the handicapped and arranges an annual outing for the elderly. A stall in Northampton market at Christmas time raises some of the money needed for these activities.

## Brighton, Sussex

Early jobs in Brighton included camps for children from the East End of London and the formation of a blind club which is still in existence. More recently a Non-Runners Club was started, open to anybody who was unable to run. This is now organised jointly by Toc H, Rotary and Round Table and has a membership of about 100.

Last year Brighton & Hove branch amalgamated with Preston Park women's branch to form Preston Park joint branch.

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## Welcome Point

The following branch was recognised by the Central Executive at its July meeting: Byfleet (j).

The following branches elected new members during July:

- 6—Hythe (w), Orston (j).
- 5—Biggleswade (w).
- 4—Wiggenhall St German's (j).
- 2—Arlington (j), Glen Parva (w), Wellingborough (m), Wigmore (w).
- 1—Ashford (m), Boston (m), Central (j), Chandlers Ford (m), Clacton (m), Clevedon (j), Croydon (j), Falmouth (w), Finchley & Whetstone (w), Harefield (j), Hove (w), Ilminster (m), Knowle (w), Thurrock (m), Wadhurst (j), Western Area (j), Weston Rhyn (m), West Wickham (w), Whetstone & Finchley (m), Wroughton (w).

We extend a warm welcome to the 49 new members.



## Why do we run projects anyway?

Rickie Lowe, of the Western Regional staff, outlines the reasons for running projects and suggests some ways in which the programme might be made more effective. Rickie has many years of project experience behind him and is now responsible for developing projects in the Western Region.



Photo: Maria Bartha



I wonder how many members, at some time or other, have asked why the Movement spends so much time organising projects, which often seem to have little or no connection with the longer established expressions of Toc H. It is quite common, for example, for *none* of the volunteers on a project—including the leader—to be members.

Since the first faltering steps were taken projects have come a long way. They are now generally accepted as being rather a good idea. It is no longer a question of having one or two projects as a fringe activity. This year there were over 70 projects and well over 1,000 people took part.

There is a danger, I believe, that we are becoming somewhat mesmerised by the size and apparent success of the project programme. The underlying myth is that if one project is good ten projects must be ten times as good. In order to sharpen our thinking it seems worth trying to spell out what it is that can reasonably be expected from a good project.

One of the most important aspects of a project is the educational opportunity—in a very loosely defined way—which it offers to the volunteer. There are a number of different elements in this. Firstly, the volunteer has an opportunity of living and working with a group of people (usually from a variety of backgrounds). This is quite different from the home or school situation and it provides an important opportunity for the volunteer to experiment and learn about living in a group.

Secondly a project provides the volunteer with a chance to learn about all sorts of things at first hand. It's one thing to hear a talk about the health service, the need for more beds in mental hospitals or the need to preserve the countryside. It's quite another thing—and likely to make a much deeper impression—to work on the wards of a mental hospital or to dig a drainage ditch.

Thirdly, the project experience can provide the volunteer with an opportunity to try a particular

A two week playscheme run in co-operation with the Southend, Essex, Society for Mentally Handicapped Children. The school which these children attend throughout the year was the base for the scheme and provided facilities for a wide range of activities including, for one 13 year old, the adventure of learning to ride a tricycle (left). Outings to the beach at Shoeburyness were popular with children and volunteers (overleaf).

The main task at Red Leys children's home in Surrey this year was the building of this elaborate fort (top). But spending time with the children is just as important. This barbecue was one of the highlights of the project (below).  
Photos: Simon Moffett

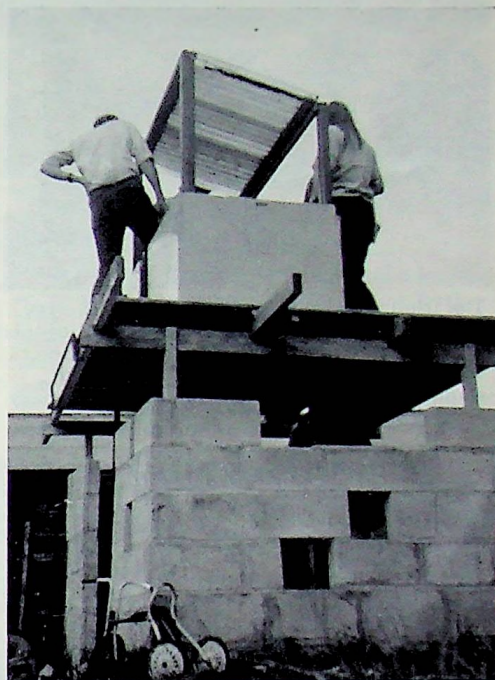
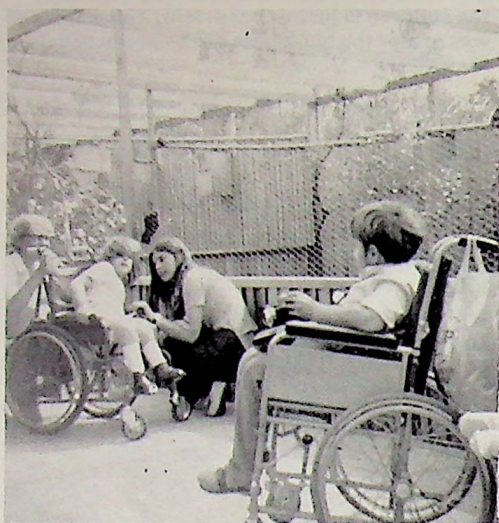




Photo: Nancy Griffiths



The trip to Bird World, near Farnham, Surrey, was one of the outings enjoyed by handicapped children from Cheyne's Hospital in Croydon. Weekly outings were arranged throughout August by a group of volunteers and members of Croydon branches.

type of work, with no long term commitment, in order to see if he wants to make a career of it. Playschemes, for example, provide an ideal opportunity for the would-be teacher to actually try working with a group of children. It's much easier, and less damaging, for a volunteer to accept that he's not cut out for teaching after a two week playscheme than after the two weeks' teaching practice at the start of a training course.

So here are three basic ways in which volunteers can benefit from a project, although there are, of course, many more. The various agencies for which we work also benefit, although this to some extent depends on their ability to use a large force of volunteers for a relatively short time. By recruiting, organising, leading and feeding the volunteers we are providing these agencies with a useful service. It seems, then, that both volunteers and the agencies for which we work benefit from projects but that still leaves unanswered the question of how the Toc H Movement itself benefits from the whole operation. It is reasonable to expect some return and I suspect that many people feel that the return is not showing itself as strongly as had been hoped.

Projects provide an ideal opportunity for young people to catch the infectious spirit of Toc H.



Photo: Maria Bartha



To some extent this has been happening and certainly there are now a considerable number of young people in the Movement who first became 'infected' through projects. However, there are also many volunteers who might have been sufficiently interested to seek a fuller commitment but who have not in fact done so. It seems to me that this is partly because we have not yet fully accepted that many young people want to join the Movement but do not necessarily want to join the local branch; and partly because the organisation of projects has for too long been regarded as the responsibility of a small number of specialist staff.

The meaning of membership and how young people want to fit into the Movement has been carefully studied by a small working party, which reported to the Central Executive last month, and this subject will, I think and hope, receive a great deal of thought and discussion in the months ahead. There are also some very encouraging signs that members and staff are beginning to understand that projects are not something quite separate from the rest of the Movement. Already there are quite a number of Regional project support groups and Area project teams, and a structure seems to be growing up in which branch members and volunteers can work side by side on all the decisions necessary for the running of a good

project—ranging from questions of policy to ordering the right quantity of milk. As experience and confidence grow I think and hope that we shall see more Districts and branches organising their own projects. When that happens it will be very difficult for the new volunteer to avoid infection.

I think we can conclude that projects are important and very worthwhile but that there are a number of important changes which must be made before the Movement can expect to see the return which it rightly looks for. To concentrate on running more and more projects at this stage is probably not very helpful; let us rather concentrate on running better projects, with more membership participation and with more effective follow-up.

The type and standard of sleeping and eating accommodation varies slightly, but on most projects it is of a fairly rudimentary nature. That's what it says on the projects poster. What it meant so far as the Southend project is concerned is shown in this picture (below). With his back to the camera is John Burgess, projects organiser for the South East Region.



Photo: Maria Bartha



# TALKING POINT

## Prayer that recharges the batteries

Bob Knight

Prayer may not often appear on branch programmes as the subject for the evening, yet there is in Toc H a keen interest in it, and a demand for material to use when praying. Much of our praying consists of requests, albeit for the highest virtues of love, peace of mind, a forgiving spirit.

Another important way of praying is the complementary experience of receiving. To do this, requests are replaced by affirmations. To pray in this way is a reversal of our natural attitude, and is part of the conversion experience which the New Testament writers described with such conviction. This transformation had happened to them: it made a fundamental difference to their way of living and their expectation of life.

Furthermore, by way of proof that there is something in it, there have been men and women in every generation who have made the same discovery. Compassion, joy, patience and hope continuously spring up as the evidence that they are tapping something stronger than human will-power. The greater the demand that is made, the stronger seems their response.

This is the kind of prayer that recharges the batteries. Just as a flat battery must be put on charge, free from normal demands, so the human spirit must be made available to the Spirit of God. We take regular food and rest for our physical and mental energy to be at a peak. The emotional side of the personality needs to be rested or signs of stress begin to appear. The spiritual, which pervades the whole personality, must also be given time. That is obvious, and if, when we have given time for prayer, we feel no different, we should begin to wonder if there are other ways of doing it.

The Fourth Point of Toc H is expressly concerned with the spiritual nature of man, and in this we are not so much giving as receiving. The Fourth Point is a reminder that in all our relationships, all our service, every demand to be fairminded, it is the spirit that is all important. We know only too well that, if we are dependent only on our human resources, the spirit of

goodwill to all men will change into a spirit of ill-will. We make the uncomfortable discovery that we need the grace and power of God to sustain our goodwill. Again the question arises, how is this done?

A growing interest in methods of relaxation and meditation indicates that these are no longer regarded as the activities of especially spiritual personalities, cloistered in an abbey. There is a readiness for silence, both privately and corporately, which is another feature of this way of praying. The daily rule of the Bordon Company has been very close to this, and the time may be coming when we should re-examine the Company in order to reflect these developments.

Leslie Weatherhead in his book *A Private House of Prayer* describes affirmative prayer in more detail than is possible here. Many of the affirmations in the Psalms can be used, and particularly the familiar verses of the 23rd and the 27th. This example of an affirmation, said thoughtfully and used regularly over a period, will become part of our interior attitude to whatever may be happening around us:

'God is at work NOW at the point at which I am facing difficulty or suffering or trouble. He is seeking to heal where healing is needed. He is illuminating where my way seems hidden and dark. He is strengthening where my will is weak and faltering. God is at work and God is Power and Light. He creates and sustains health and harmony.

I now affirm this and receive the truth of its message.'

Affirmative prayer may not be a familiar way of praying, and it must be practised regularly to discover its value. What we store up in our deeper minds returns to the surface of our lives later. Before the bad news that is thrust at us every hour of the day, in affirmative prayer we renew our store of the good news of God's presence and purpose in ourselves and in our world.

1 *A Private House of Prayer* L D Weatherhead: p 238



# NEWSPOINT

## Increased loans for branch premises approved

The Central Executive has approved the setting up of a revolving fund of £50,000 from which interest free loans will be made to branches wishing to purchase new premises or to make improvements to their existing premises. In principle the Finance Committee has always been willing to consider making loans for these purposes but in view of the improved financial position the amount of money available for loans to branches has been substantially

increased. Under the new arrangements the Finance Committee will be prepared to sanction loans up to a combined total of £50,000. When this maximum is reached new loans will only be sanctioned as earlier ones are repaid. The Executive believes that the possession of adequate premises can help to improve a branch's effectiveness and hopes that the new fund will enable the Movement to do away with all remaining branch rooms that are dark and dingy and a poor

advertisement for Toc H. Requests for loans should be addressed to George Liddle, the Hon Treasurer, at Toc H administrative headquarters, 1 Forest Close, Wendover, Bucks. As before, the branch will be expected to give full details of the improvements planned, with estimates of cost, and details of its plans for covering repayment of the loan over a reasonable period of time. All loans will be free of interest.

## New salary scales approved

The Central Executive has approved new salary scales for all members of the Toc H staff. The new scales, which are tied to the Burnham scale for primary and secondary school teachers and will be automatically adjusted when the Burnham scale is adjusted, show a marked improvement on the old scales. The Executive believes that they offer a fairer deal to existing staff and that they will

make it easier to attract new staff of the required calibre. As before there are two scales. Scale I runs from £1,000 per year (for trainees) to £2,279. Scale II, the equivalent of the former 'continuity' scale for permanent staff, runs from £2,131 to £2,579. Movement to Scale II is on the decision of the Personnel Committee. The marriage and children's allowances previously paid are abolished and all members

of staff will be paid according to the rate for their particular point on the new scale. Staff will be required to contribute 5 per cent of their salary to the pension fund and those living in staff houses will be charged something very much nearer the commercial rent for their accommodation than in the past. Rent increases will, however, be introduced gradually.

Coke and popcorn replaced the traditional tea and biscuits for an American evening organised by the women's branch in Chippenham, Wilts. The room was decorated with posters loaned by the American Embassy and the evening was attended by members of local branches and Builders. The branch has for many years been collecting clothes for refugee babies and all those attending the evening were asked to bring one baby garment with them.

Photo: Reg Coates





# co-operation under canvas

Harry Long *Point Three correspondent*

1972

A happy example of co-operation between Toc H in two counties and friendly 'outside' helpers is the annual camp for under-privileged boys organised by Toc H Norfolk for Toc H Leicester.

This year there were 28 boys from Leicester and nine from Norwich in camp at Holkham Park in North Norfolk for seven days.

Norfolk branches have to produce spare clothing because of the number who arrive with only the clothes they are wearing and no hope of something to change into unless Toc H supplies it.

But what a time they have. Norwich Joint District gave them an outing in the city—the museum, believe it or not, was a huge attraction—with tea in their room at Elm Hill.

They had an outing to Hunstanton where the women's branch supplied a meal, and Toftwood, Fakenham and Costessey men's branches organised entertainment on separate evenings in the week.

On the last night of the camp there was a very cheerful camp fire led by Roy Mercer, Assistant Scout Commissioner for Mid-Norfolk. About 200 hot dogs disappeared.

Ted Booty of Toftwood branch organised the camp for Toc H but everyone knows that the 'gold' for its success must go to Tom and Joan Hubbard who volunteered from outside the Movement to help. Help? They are the camp.



Mary Foster of Leicester women's branch with some of the boys.

Photo: Mike Marston

## Handbook on good neighbours

A handbook on local good neighbour schemes has just been published by the National Council of Social Service. Entitled *Time to Care* the short handbook gives brief, practical information about how to go about launching such schemes, about the kinds of service that might be undertaken and the training that may be required. Particularly noteworthy is the stress on the need to co-operate closely with local authority Departments of Social Service and on the necessity of keeping proper records. *Time to Care* costs 30p and can be obtained direct from the NCSS at 26 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3HU.



Charlie Foster (centre), who at 82 is the oldest member of Weybridge, Surrey, branch, helping at the annual party for old people. Despite his age Charlie is not too old to shop for people less active than himself or to do his share of wood chopping.

Photo: Harold Collins

## Camp for prisoners' families 'huge success'

The week's holiday for prisoners' wives and their children, held for the first time this year at the Toc H camp in Alnmouth, Northumberland, has been described by Mr F J McLaren, Newcastle's Principal Probation Officer, as a 'huge success'. In a letter to the Director of Toc H, Sandy Giles, Mr McLaren says: 'In all, eight wives and their 23 children participated in what was, for most of them, the first holiday of their lives. I am told by my staff who took part in the holiday that everything that could be done to make it a happy and memorable occasion was done by the cook and her helpers, and the very young Toc H volunteers who supervised and played with the children—not an easy task as the age range was from a few months to 13 years. Perhaps the most important aspect, and one which was certainly brought home last week to some of these young wives, is that other people care enough to devote time, money and energy to look after them in this way.'

'Not the least benefit appears to be an awareness amongst some of the young wives that their fellow members in the clubs run for them by this department have problems and, as the week wore on, I am told there was a great deal of self-help coming from within the group.'

## World record bid fails

Five hours of non-stop sculling by Robert Mills, a Stowe School, Bucks, pupil was enough to earn £3.50 for Buckingham branch funds but not enough to win him a place in the Guinness Book of Records. Robert hoped to cover 50 miles but when blistered hands forced him to give up he had rowed only 15 miles. Nonetheless this attempt is another example of the co-operation received by Buckingham branch from Stowe School.



## Wives get a 'Thank-you'

The now traditional mid-summer annual dinner of Chislehurst (Kent) branch was held on July 19 at Donnington Manor, Dunton Green, Kent, principal guests being members' wives, friends and the Rev Robert Beattie, South Eastern Regional padre.

Among greetings for a successful evening received by the branch and read by secretary Fred Gordon, who organised the evening, was one from Tubby.

Chairman Geoff Bricher, welcoming the guests and thanking the wives for an uncomplaining acceptance of members' willingness 'to tackle jobs elsewhere which they seemed to shirk at home', took advantage of the occasion to ask that three of the guests—Peter Smith, Peter Munns and Harry Hartley—accept Associate membership of Chislehurst branch. It was, he said, a sincere token of branch members' appreciation for the support and active help which had been given to them over a long period.

## The dance as therapy

Dora Bullivant, who resigned as Toc H International Secretary in order to develop her work with Workshop 42, the group which performed at the last Toc H Festival at the Albert Hall, is now developing the use of dance and movement as therapy for disturbed and handicapped people. 'Art, music and drama have been recognised as media for work in these fields,' she says, 'but so far in this country dance has not taken its place. Largely, I believe because it has only been thought of in terms of dance and not the wide spectrum of movement and sound. In America, of course, dance therapy has been used for many years, but America has never been what I call "balletbound".' Dora is making a film about this new aspect of her work, primarily for showing to members of the medical profession.

## In brief...

● About 120 people attended the East Midlands Area gathering in Market Harborough. The main speaker was Sandy Giles, Director of Toc H, and reports from the Districts outlined some of the exciting projects currently going on in various parts of the Area.

● The model railway at the end of Worthing pier was the biggest attraction for most of the 23 handicapped youngsters entertained by Broadwater women's branch.

● Peterborough's Alexandra Rose Day collection brought in just under £300, far in excess of the previous best of £225. And the Wessex District raised just under £200 on the same day.

● £10 raised at a Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, women's branch coffee evening is to go towards a trust fund to provide holidays for the needy. The branch has also been collecting clothes for gypsies.

● The club for retired men recently formed by Bournemouth joint branch has attracted a regular attendance of 20 throughout the summer and expects increased numbers during the winter.

● Also in Bournemouth Toc H was allocated the proceeds from a wishing well for six weeks. £23.55 was collected and is to go into the Wessex District's extension fund.

● Pocklington joint branch in south west London has celebrated its first birthday. Fifteen of the 20 members are residents of Pocklington Court, a community for the blind.

● Many of the members of Carshalton, Surrey, branch who attended the funeral of former branch pilot Leslie Peters recalled climbing up the wall ladder from Les's bakehouse to the flour loft which he made available for branch meetings after the Toc H room had been hit by a 'doodle bug' in 1944.

● Wigmore women's branch in Kent raised £40 for the Multiple Sclerosis Society at a 'bring and buy' sale held in a member's garden.

● The rededication service held to mark the 25th anniversary of Attleborough, Norfolk, branch was attended by 150 members and friends. For the past 15 years the branch has met in a converted cobbler's workshop.

● Melton Mowbray, Leics, branch entertained 110 members of the Anstey 'drop in' centre for the elderly.

● Porlock, Somerset, branch's first ever summer concert attracted a full house of local residents and holiday visitors.

● South Eastern Regional padre Robert Beattie was invited to attend the Mass celebrated at Westminster Cathedral, in the presence of the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster and members of the Hierarchy of England and Wales, to commemorate the ninth anniversary of the coronation of Pope Paul VI.



## Stimulus at Bangor

Wynford Phillips

I believe it was the late Eric Gill—in his day a celebrated sculptor—who wrote 'Art is the trick of arranging the mantelpiece of life'.

Nature, rugged mountains and the gleaming waters of the Menai Straits, and men in their swiftly changing moods, provocative, convivial and confiding, combined to make the Toc H Summer School at Bangor a memorable occasion for the writer (a branch padre at Rhyl in the late 1940s).

The arrangements genuinely but not perfectly contrived were no trick: the fellowship spontaneously generated was no sham; and the stimulus of violent re-appraisal of traditional Christian and Toc H values was healthily abrasive. The content of the basic truths of life, joy, light and truth, were unwrapped from the dusty, respectable coverings of cobwebby tradition.

Grudgingly perhaps, we conceded that history, even Toc H history, must always be a living stream, and that common human experience is of necessity severely limited and must be subject to checks and counterchecks honestly undertaken.

Some quotes will disturbingly reverberate in the corridors of the memory. I noted them roughly at the time they were spoken:

'Morality consists in knowing what you really want, and seeing that you are not misled into accepting a spurious substitute.'

'Facts and experiences are not self interpreting.'

'The meaning and fulfilment of life can be discovered in a group of friends experimentally.'

I liked a reference to Camillo Torres, a gentle Roman Catholic priest from South America, who became a radical revolutionary, and aware of his estrangement from his fellow man, chose to deny himself the inspiration of Christ in His Mass.

There could be no conclusions to the arguments, for are we not all called to travel lightly, hopefully, joyously and purposefully—in the company of the 'experts' in life from darkness to light.

I came away with this concern—the rightness of exposing myself to experiences as life presents them, but with the overriding loyalty to the Christ in history, in others and in oneself.

## The first 'Chairmobile'

Reg Collins *Point Three Correspondent*

Lord Snowdon was struck by the plight of people confined to wheelchairs during his committee work for the National Fund for the Research into Crippling Diseases.

He detested the look of wheelchairs—'like a bit of old plumbing'—and thought them hopelessly unadaptable.

Moreover, the same chair had to serve most handicapped people as an office chair, dining chair and chair to relax in.

For three days in the summer of 1968 he shut himself up in his workshop in Kensington Palace. He emerged with something that wasn't a wheelchair.

It was a platform on which a multiplicity of chairs would fit. It had a motor and a removable steering column. The Chairmobile was born...

It has now been developed as a production model so that many thousands of physically handicapped people can also benefit.

Two of Britain's most distinguished engineering firms have pooled their expertise, craftsmanship and goodwill to make Lord Snowdon's invention generally available at minimum cost.

The project is sponsored on a non-profit basis by the *'Sunday Mirror'*.



Mavis White in her new 'Chairmobile', with (left to right) Ken Bailey, who performed the handing over ceremony, Reg Collins, chairman of Bournemouth joint branch and Dennis Braybrook, chairman of the Wessex District Team.

Initially the Chairmobile is only available by mail order direct from the Chairmobile Office, Room 126, 79 Camden Road, London, NW1 9NT.

The standard version costs £99.50 and is fitted with the Hille chair. Fitted with a Leabank chair the cost is £103.00.

The Chairmobile can also be obtained through Green Shield Stamps through a charity, Women's Institute, Scout Troops, Toc H, etc. Such community organisations can save on a group basis to help the handicapped person of their choice. 153 books are required for the Hille chair and 158½ books for the Leabank chair.

The Manager of the Community Savings Department at Green Shield House, Station Road, Edgware, Middlesex, HA8 7AQ, will supply details on request.

At a recent meeting of the Bournemouth joint branch, the very first Chairmobile to be supplied through the Green Shield Stamp scheme was officially handed over by Mr Ken Bailey, a well-known Bournemouth sportsman, to Mrs Mavis White, of Kimberley Road, Southbourne, on behalf of the branch.

Mavis, who is severely handicapped and cannot feed or dress herself and is unable to move from the position in which she is put, then demonstrated how simple it was to use the Chairmobile.

By pressing down a knob, the chair moves forward. By pulling the knob back, then depressing it, it goes in reverse. It has unique movability in that it can pivot in its own space, can travel up to a mile, around the house, garden or other even surface, before requiring re-charging. A special charger is supplied and can be used overnight. The latter is fitted with a safety cut out.

In thanking members of Toc H for their part in obtaining the chair, Mavis said that the Chairmobile had given her a new interest in life. Instead of having to rely on relatives and friends to push her around the house and garden, she could now go by herself once she was in this new chair.

As a result of the publicity the branch has received many enquiries, also a cheque for £200 from a friend who wishes to remain anonymous, to enable two chairs to be purchased and loaned to suitable handicapped persons.



# PICTUREPOINT

Right: Martha, the mobile caravan, was again a welcome visitor at the Welsh National Eisteddfod, held this year at Haverfordwest. A former Mold branch padre, the Rev Daffydd Owen, won the Bardic Chair for poetry at the Eisteddfod.

Centre right: Present at this gathering of past and present members of the Women's Association staff were: standing (left to right): Joyce Green, 'Peth' Davidson, Gertrude Greenacre, Elisabeth Worth, Brenda Loveland (nee 'Dai' Morgan), Jean Perry, Helen Benbow, Winnie Adams; seated (left to right): Mary Stevenson, Alice Welford, Elsa Perrin, Elsie Potter, Ruby Relf, Elizabeth Bacon; on the ground (left to right): Phyllis Wolfe, Rita Fowler, Molly Oxenford.

Below right: The art exhibition organised by Prideaux House, Hackney, in East London, attracted these entries from Hackney's French 'twin' town, Suresnes. Entries were also received from Poperinge.

Below: Winant Volunteer Brenda Bush, a 21 year old student of child development and education at the University of Massachusetts, with some of her friends in Norfolk Park, Sheffield, where Brenda helped with a play leadership scheme.



Photo : Graham Davies



Photo. Sheffield Newspapers Ltd

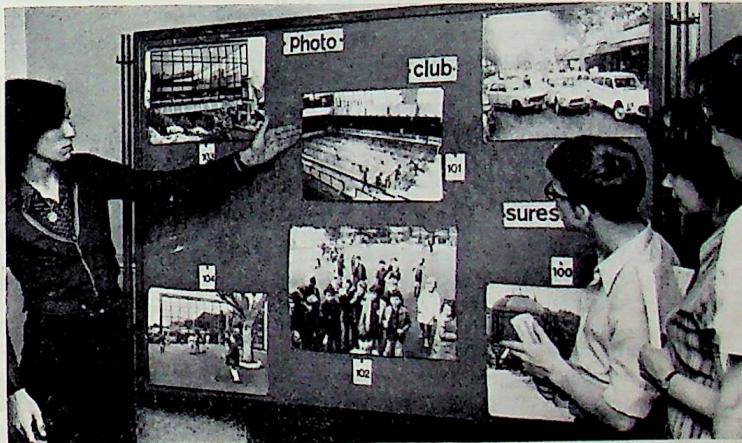


Photo : Hackney Gazette



## Faces in the Regions: Northern

C. Huw Gibbs



Johnnie Macmillan



Adrian Dudman



Ian Russell

### Taking the High Road

As a disciple of self-governing Regions, I hope I will be forgiven for applauding the foresight and courage of the Northern Region. The experiment has just finished a long year of exploratory negotiation and already many decisions have been agreed on issues like staff operations, training and District programming. Ralph Thorne occupies one of the hottest seats in Toc H, as Council and Executive chairman, and a Regional Treasurer has been appointed.

**Adrian Dudman.** Wherever you go in Toc H you meet people who ask 'How's Adrian?'. For although he is not a well travelled staff man so far as appointments go, he does possess that something that prompts the follow-up remark. 'Once seen never forgotten.'

Adrian's working life started on a farm in Surrey where he was apprenticed for one year. National Service intervened and he went to Malaya during the fighting there and also to Germany with the 'Queen's Own'. Returning to civvy life, he worked at a brewery before reverting to farming where he studied accountancy. Adrian joined Woking branch in 1955, mainly because he was influenced by Toc H in Singapore at a place called Peka-nanas. Former staff man, Bob Purdy, was there and involved with local spastic children. When Bob left, Adrian, who was a casual helper, found himself responsible. He liked the Toc H system of finding leaders so much that he decided to stay! He also started a services' group in Germany. At some time Adrian has been an Area chairman and a Central Councillor. He joined the staff in 1965 and went with the Etheredge team to Africa. He was posted to Durham the same year and with typical enthusiasm got to grips with the appalling poverty and unemployment situation. The Newcastle West End scheme and the vigorous new group at Washington are the results.

He claims his biggest achievement is with the industrial mission in the city, which now combines with Toc H to bring a sense of social awareness to young apprentices.

For hobbies Adrian likes comedy singing and choral work. His wife Ann is a remedial teacher and they have four children—three girls and a boy.

**Peth Davidson** is the best example of an 'irresistible force' I know. Doubly armed with a voice resembling Fenella Fielding, few can resist her when she wants something done. She leaves you with that glow which tells you you are quite free to do exactly as you are told.

Born in Wallasey, Cheshire, she went to school at Oldershaw grammar school and then to teacher training college in Stockwell, south London. She returned north to Liverpool and taught for seven years in a school close to Scotland Road. 'Round the corner from Cilla Black's birthplace,' said Peth, helpfully. She became a member of Toc H in 1930 and joined the staff in 1937. Since then she has worked in most parts of the country and has collected friends and fans everywhere. Peth married in 1948 but lost her husband four years later when he died suddenly from a heart attack. Peth is keen on reading and particularly likes the local flavour in poetry.



Her parting remark was that her daughter was expecting a baby in three weeks. 'Then I'll be a granny. What do you think of that?', she cooed, as I put the phone down.

**Bill Bains** will tell you that he owes much to Adrian Dudman. He forgets to mention that Toc H in Washington owes much to Bill Bains who performed a superb job in publicising the work while a member there. Bill was born in Sunderland, and, like Adrian, started his working life on a farm. He joined Whitby branch in 1958 and filled the posts of branch secretary and jobmaster well enough to do the same jobs at Area level.

For jobs Bill is as varied as anyone can be. Mobile crane driver, salesman, theatre doorman, bus conductor, parcels vanman, etc. But all of life is there and the experience was not wasted on Bill. After helping with the Washington playscheme he went to Ruskin college and left with an Oxford University diploma in social studies. He joined the staff in February and was appointed to Leeds. Bill is married with six children.

**John Macmillan.** Although Johnnie recalled that school in his early days was interrupted by long periods of hospitalisation he acquired sufficient brains to attend Bellahouston Grammar School and later Glasgow University, where he obtained a diploma in social science. He is also a member of the Institute of Personnel Management.

Born in Govan, Glasgow, he aspired to the great outdoors and is pleased to tell you that he has 'climbed every mountain in Britain worth climbing.' For a time he was a youth club leader.

He became interested in the Iona Community and joined George MacLeod as 'chauffeur' in 1938. Later he was to become the first Youth Secretary for the community. In 1940 he was 'loaned' to Tubby and transferred to the Orkney Isles, where he met his wife, Molly. There is a wonderful story concerning the brief and undistinguished period as ADC to Tubby. Worried about his relationship and difficulty in the job, Johnnie approached Tubby and with great sacrifice confessed, 'I must be the worst ADC you've ever had.'

Tubby, stirring only to remove his pipe, replied, 'Oh my dear, I'm so glad *you* said that.'

Until 1949 Johnnie directed the Iona Youth Trust and was also the first Director of Brathay Hall Centre in the Lake District. He then

became Toc H Scottish Secretary, where he stayed for six years before being posted to the other end of the country to set up the Bristol Centre. 'This was the first centre Toc H had. All my life I've been a "firster",' John smiled. He was Regional leader for the west for 9 years before moving to his present appointment, again as Regional leader. No one is surprised, therefore, to discover that the Northern Region leads all others in the present self-governing experiment. John lives at Manchester, but still finds time to climb mountains and be a member of the Labour Party. Like many staff members, high on his list is reading.

**Ellen Marie-Marquez.** Looking after projects development in the Northern Region is the girl who claimed when interviewed once before that she 'had no time for hobbies except Toc H.' Ellen-Marie is 21 and was born in Venezuela. More complete information is contained in the issue for September 1971.

**Ian Russell** is our man in Scotland. When it comes to activity Ian knows few equals. In addition to training as a weaver of Harris tweed, obtaining his Master Mariner's ticket after 10 years in the Merchant Navy, completing a teacher's training course and organising community services in the county of Sutherland, he also likes ski-ing, hill walking, teaching navigation and Gaelic conversation.

Ian is married with three children and lives at Glenrothes, Fife. He studied teaching at Moray House, Edinburgh, where he also took a course in youth and community work. After a spell as county adviser he moved to Lauder Technical College, Dunfermline, as full-time youth leader.

Passionately fond of old Scotland, Ian revelled in the opportunity to return to the Isles where he was born, to conduct the first Toc H survey with John Forbes. 'This is the place where Toc H in Scotland can begin to grow,' he said. Those who know Ian's drive and stamina can hardly doubt his word.

*Note. A photo of Peth Davidson appears on page 177.*

### **Ugandan Asians**

Prideaux House has become a co-ordinating point for voluntary help in welcoming Asian refugees from Uganda. If these unfortunate people are to be given the kind of welcome we would wish a massive programme of public education is required. And each one of us has a part to play in this. If you would like the facts to enable you to play your part more effectively—or if you can offer practical help in any way—contact Gualter de Mello at Toc H Prideaux House, Church Crescent, London E9 (Tel: 01-985 4901).



# EAST ANGLIA AREA'S POETS

*John Jones, formerly of the Northern Regional staff, was visiting speaker at an East Anglia Area weekend at Overstrand earlier this year. After talking about poetry he challenged his listeners to write something themselves. As the following three poems indicate, considerable talent was revealed.*

## OUR BRANCH

It was Thursday night at the branch room.  
The room was still, the door ajar.  
The first arrival parks an ancient car.  
Chairs sit like crouching frogs  
awaiting eager residents  
to secure their forms, and root them there,  
to set them in their way.  
A light flicked on, the scene was bright and sparse,  
the man moved in—sat—moved no more;  
the branch had sent the Lamp to HQ,  
only the week before.

*John Burgess*

## A Dream

In my dream I saw God not as a man  
but—as a long drift of swirling cloud  
which went on and on—till I awoke.

*Ellen Joyce*

## A Pensioner

'Can you come on Thursday?' I was asked  
by the man with the pad.  
It was the first time they had asked me,  
so I said, 'Of course', and then thought of  
the engagement now broken.  
I've been coming for many years,  
and all was very fine,  
but I've always wanted to go with them.  
Even when low in numbers,  
no one thought of me.  
I do not always volunteer,  
just need the encouragement to be.

*John Burgess*

## Elsa Perrin

The retirement, at the end of July, of Elsa Perrin brings to an end a long and varied career of service to the Movement. Elsa joined the staff of the Women's Association as Headquarters Secretary. She served later as Overseas Secretary and, in 1953, became Regional Secretary for London and the Home Counties. Of the many gifts which she brought to her work the most important was her gift for friendship and she will be affectionately remembered by members in the South Eastern Region and by her colleagues on the staff. A photo of Elsa appears on page 177.

## Nancy Griffiths

Nancy has resigned from her post with the South Eastern Regional staff team, working mainly in South London. Her energy and drive made a very considerable contribution to the development of Toc H work in the Borough of Croydon where her two major memorials will perhaps be the children's playschemes on the Waddon Estate and the close relationship which has been forged with the Community Relations Council.

## Sue Doxey

Sue has resigned her post as cook/housekeeper at Alison House. Those who have stayed at the House in recent months will be particularly grateful for the way in which she coped with extra duties during the period without a Warden.

## Charles and Caroline Kewn

Our caretakers at 15 Trinity Square have found alternative employment not far away as caretakers at Trinity House. We offer them our thanks and good wishes.

## Mark 7's Jubilee

The 50th birthday of Mark 7, in Fitzroy Square, London, is being celebrated on Saturday, November 4, with a service at St Martin's-in-the-Fields at 12 noon, a buffet lunch at the Royal Commonwealth Society, open house at the Mark in the afternoon and a buffet dance in the evening. All welcome. Details and tickets from P R King, Toc H Mark 7, 15 Fitzroy Square, London W1P 5 HQ.

## No wonder

'You never can tell' was the title of a talk given by Mr S... at the weekly meeting Mrs G... expressed thanks.

The report, in full, of a branch meeting, as published in the local paper. Not very illuminating.



## Small Advertisements

Small advertisements must be received (with remittance) by the first day of the month preceding publication. The charge is 3p a word (minimum 30p). *Point Three Magazine*, Toc H Headquarters, 42 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2AL. Telephone 01-709 0472.



**BRUGES, BELGIUM.** Hotel Jacobs welcomes Toc H parties and individual visitors to this lovely old city. Within easy reach of other famous cities of art, and of coast. Good food and comfortable accommodation in 'friendly' atmosphere. Pleasant restaurant, bar and lounge. Parking. English spoken. Strongly recommended. Write for brochure and terms to Mr Jules Lietaert, HOTEL JACOBS, Ballestraat 1, Bruges, Belgium.

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**'ROSEACRE ROSES'** for 1972/73 available from the nursery of Mr F Burgin, Bramcote, Nottingham, whose blooms are exhibited from Northampton to Southport. 10% discount from listed prices for Toc H members and friends. Profits to family purse. Delivery November/March. sae for details to W E Bruton FRHS, 84 Monks Lane, Newbury, Berks.

**WARDEN MANOR.** Vacancies house party weekend October 27-29; also Christmas, December 23-28. Available for conferences and Toc H branch weekends. vacancies from beginning November. Write John Cole, Warden Manor, Eastchurch, Kent; tel: Eastchurch 238.

**WORLD FAMOUS GRIMSTHORPE** colliery band. Concert October 28, 1972, 8 pm in Central Hall, Kettering. Tickets 60p and 50p from Les Clark, 11 Bowling Green Avenue, Kettering, Northants. Proceeds to Toc H work.

**HOLIDAYS 1973.** Plans are in hand for a 12-day visit to Norway, leaving Luton on June 16 1973 and staying at Eidfjord, a small arm of the Hardanger Fjord. The approximate cost is £63, and travel is by day flights. Enquiries to Elsa Perrin, 39 Elmar Road, Tottenham, London N15 5DH. A stamped addressed envelope would be appreciated.

### Please note

We were unfortunately misinformed about the telephone number at the new administrative headquarters. The number is in fact

**Wendover 3911**

Our apologies.

### ... and a reminder

Correspondence for the General Secretary's department, the accounts department and the public relations department, and orders for all publications, should now be addressed to:

**Toc H Administrative Headquarters,  
1 Forest Close,  
Wendover,  
Buckinghamshire.  
Tel: Wendover 3911**

Correspondence for the Director, the Headquarters Padre, the International Secretary and the Editor of *Point Three* should now be addressed to:

**Toc H Headquarters,  
42 Crutched Friars,  
London EC3N 2AL.  
Tel: 01-709 0472**

The South Eastern Regional office is now at:

**41 Trinity Square,  
London EC3N 4DJ.  
Tel: 01-709 0472**



# Toc H diaries...

This is the most useful Toc H handbook of them all, for it includes Area and Regional addresses as well as the usual wealth of information about the Movement. Bound in dark green, with the symbol in gold.

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